

**Board of Education**  
**Homer Central School District**  
**TESTING RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, every student deserves, and our nation's future well-being relies on, a quality public education dedicated to preparing engaged citizens, creative thinkers, and lifelong learners ready for college and careers, as is the stated goal of the Common Core Standards; and

WHEREAS, our school systems have been spending increasing amounts of time, money and energy on high-stakes standardized tests prepared by corporations reaping huge economic profits, in which student performance on these standardized tests is used to make major decisions affecting individual students, educators and schools; and

WHEREAS, growing reliance on high-stakes standardized testing in state and federal accountability systems is undermining educational quality in U.S. public schools by eroding student learning time and hampering educators' efforts to focus on the broad range of learning experiences that promote the innovation, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, critical thinking and deep subject-matter knowledge that will allow students to thrive in a democracy and an increasingly global society and economy; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that research recommends the use of multiple measures to gauge student performance and teacher effectiveness, the state's growing reliance on standardized testing is adversely affecting students, eroding the morale of our educators and further draining already scarce resources; and

WHEREAS, the high-stakes standardized testing policies fail to effectively measure the abilities of students from all backgrounds, and have especially negative results for low-income students, English language learners, and children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, it is time for policymakers to reconsider the appropriate use of standardized tests

and to restore the job of educating to educators, so that they can focus attention on student-learning; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the governor, state legislature, Commissioner of Education and other policy makers to reexamine public school accountability systems in this state, and to encourage and permit alternative systems based on multiple forms of assessment which do not require extensive standardized testing, and which more accurately reflect the broad range of student learning; and

RESOLVED, that the Homer Central School Board of Education calls on the U.S. Congress and Administration to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, otherwise known as “No Child Left Behind,” to reduce testing mandates, promote multiple forms of evidence of student learning and school quality in accountability systems, and not mandate any fixed role for the use of student test scores in evaluating educators.